

# PSH welcomes Wilson

Paul Setlock  
Capital Times Staff

Penn State Harrisburg has a new addition to the humanities division. Matthew Wilson, assistant professor of humanities, is presently teaching English 402 and Western Tradition 311.

After graduating from Holy Cross High School in Riverside N.J., Wilson attended LaSalle University. At LaSalle, he earned a bachelor of arts degree in New Brunswick, N.J. and earned a Ph. D. in English in 1978. Wilson did his dissertation, entitled A.R. Ammons, Theodore Roethke and American Nature Poetry, in American literature.

Wilson's work experience is varied. From 1981 to 1983, he taught at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During this period, he spent much time touring Europe. Wilson's traveling allowed him to realize that he wanted "to see the world." He then took a year off to stay in Holland and later applied for teaching jobs all over the world.

Wilson received offers from Shanghai and Harbin in China, Bangkok and Shangmai in Thailand, and Poland. Since his Polish ancestry aroused an interest in the country, he accepted a position at the University of Lodz, Poland, in 1984.

Following his stay in Poland, Wilson returned to the States in 1986 and taught at Rutgers for five years. He was also the

associate director of Rutgers' writing program.

Wilson finds dealing with interpretations of literature from diverse educational backgrounds challenging and

## PROFILE

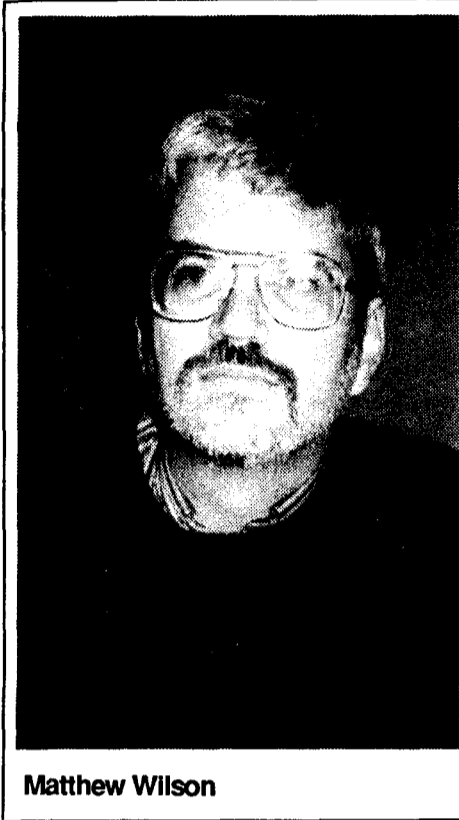
rewarding. He has also developed an interest in cross-cultural studies because of how he perceived America when he came back. Wilson stresses the study of other cultures to his students.

He has published several essays and is presently writing a book on contemporary American fiction. Wilson says the book is about "contemporary American novel sequences" such as Mary Lee Settle's The Beluah Quintet and Paul Auster's New York Trilogy.

He is also working on an essay about research paper writing pedagogy, which should be out next year. Wilson is interested in "how writing and composition can be both a production of and a critique of cultural common sense."

Penn State Harrisburg and its humanities division attracted Wilson because of its size and collegiality. He believes that a smaller educational atmosphere is more conducive to learning.

The familiarity between the faculty and



Matthew Wilson

students is appreciated by Wilson. He also likes the cross-disciplinary purpose of the division because it affords him the opportunity to continue his research and teaching interests.

## Campus enrollment increases

Sharon Barris  
Capital Times Staff

Twenty-five years ago, 122 men and women formed the first student body at Penn State Harrisburg. From that foundation in 1966, the campus has grown to a 1991 fall enrollment of 3,434 students.

Registrar Dorothy Guy said this is the highest enrollment has ever been, 18 more students than last fall.

The distribution of undergraduate students in the schools of science and engineering technology ranks the highest, accounting for 37 percent of the undergraduate program.

Guy said business administration runs a close second at 26 percent, followed by behavioral science and education majors at 17 percent. The humanities division accounts for 11 percent, while public affairs is close behind at 9 percent.

Behavioral science and education students make up the largest population of the graduate program at 36 percent. Business administration accounts for 21 percent of the graduate program, followed by public affairs at 19 percent; science, engineering and technology at 16 percent; and humanities at 8 percent.



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